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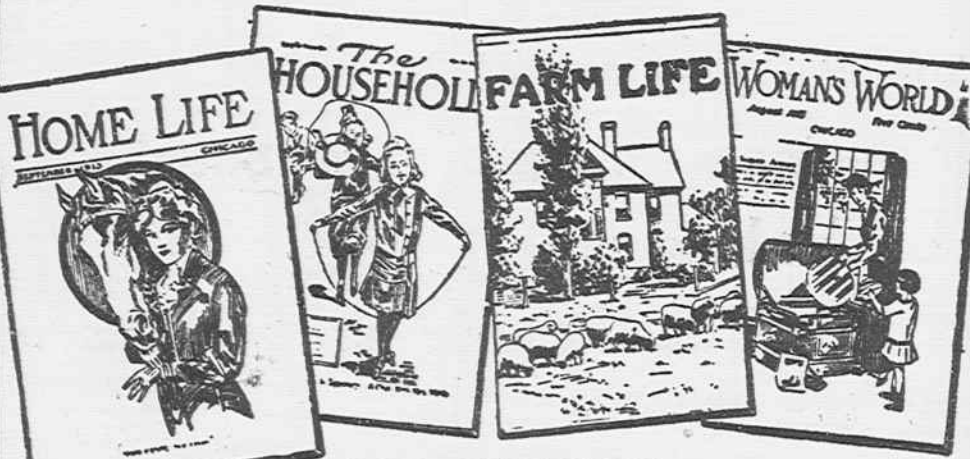
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Grace Will Accept Charleston Result

Will Make no Further for Mayoralty Nomination, Although Believes He Was Unfairly Beaten in Recent Primary—Thinks Will of Majority Defeated.

Charleston, Nov. 5.—In a statement given out for publication today Mayor Grace declares that he will make no further contest for the mayoralty nomination; that he will accept and abide by the result, although he believes he was unfairly beaten, and that the real will of the majority has been defeated. He states that it has never been his intention to bolt the primary and appeal to the general election, and that he will make no case in the courts though he feels that he would be awarded the protested box from Ward 10. Mayor Grace charges his opponents with employment of the most reprehensible methods to compass his defeat. He declares, however, that he realizes any step taken by him at this time to embroil the community is more gravely to be considered than the gratification of winning an election, and he will not add chaos to gloom by any rash steps.

The Charleston Evening Post of Friday quotes Mayor Grace as follows: "Even since the morning after election I have been in a great quandary. At 8 o'clock on election night, it was clear to me that I had won the day, figuring the returns by the votes indicated at that time. Suddenly there came a slump; I was compelled to revise my estimates. The last box was very slowly counted, apparently only keeping step with the exigencies of Mr. Hyde's case. It was not until this box came in that, on the face of the returns, it seemed I had been beaten. However, I had been beaten by fourteen votes (by the revised figures, nineteen), and I at once said to my friends, who were gathered around me, that although they and I were disappointed, still the people had spoken, and even a difference of one vote was enough to command from me the utmost acquiescence; that I did not want any recount and that for my part, I was willing to concede the election. But they begged me by no means to do so saying the result was still unofficial and very suspicious, and that I should at least wait until the nominees of the primary were officially declared. I went to bed, therefore, with mixed feelings; my own being to grin and bear and accept the result, and, struggling with these, those of my good friends, whose views I could not ignore, being to stand by our guns for a while longer.

"The whole complexion of things changed the next day. I was aroused early by messages from those who told of many irregularities. It was pointed out that the total vote cast was very high, being 6,455, or over 500 votes more than four years ago. When it is considered that severe restrictions obtained this year, and that all unnatural persons were excluded, it is fair to say that this increase of 500 is equivalent to an increase of a full one thousand votes under old conditions. Whence had they come? Either Charleston had grown more remarkably than we had claimed under my administration, or there was fraud somewhere in the voting. My opponents had had absolute charge of the machinery, the ballots, the boxes, the stamps and everything. I began to believe that there had been fraud and to see many suspicious items as I went carefully over the returns. But beliefs and suspicions were not facts. So I was still disposed to let the matter go. Then I began to learn of telephone conversations proving plots to have the box of Club 2, Ward 10, thrown out. These conversations, I am sure, were correctly reported to me; and their effect was to impress me very unfavorably as to how far the conspirators might possibly have gone in stealing the whole election. Imagine, therefore, what a change came over me. It was one thing to be a good sport, and in that spirit to accept defeat gracefully, if even by the narrowest margin. But it was quite another thing to be robbed! What should a man do under those conditions? What did he owe his friends—a majority of the people? What did he owe in loyalty to our government system whose basic principle is the right of the majority rule? These are questions which even now puzzle me.

"A change of eight votes in the count, according to figures then available, would mean my election, not considering the challenged votes. After carefully checking the matter off, it seemed we would gain a net sixteen votes to be placed against the majority, which the Hyde side then seemed to claim of fourteen, thus giving me the election by two votes, even without a recount.

"I also knew of votes that had been cast and counted illegally. There were

two votes counted for Mr. Hyde in Ward 4, cast by a Mr. Scharnoff and a Mr. Bennett, who had written their names across the ballot. As the object of the Australian ballot is to preserve secrecy in these cases the votes became void. In how many other boxes were there similar errors?

"Under the urgency, therefore, of my friends, and under my own misgivings, I reluctantly decided on Thursday to ask for a recount. When the petition was handed to Chairman Black he stated to the gentlemen who served it that he thought we were 'entitled' to a recount, and that we would get it, but that he was going to ask for police protection at the meeting of the executive committee to be held the next day. Accordingly on Thursday night I got a letter from him asking for protection, and I at once replied that it would give me pleasure to grant it. We took special pains to send a very large squad of experienced policemen to that fatal Friday meeting. My hopes indeed ran very high. Far from wishing any disturbance at that meeting, I had everything to gain and nothing to lose by an orderly, judicial, impartial hearing of the case. Every one of my friends understood that we were going there only in the spirit of peace and justice, carefully prepared to put up a meritorious case. Brown, who began the firing that day, and McDonald, who instantly reinforced him, on the other hand, went there in a completely different spirit. Brown had been one of the main participants and was a disputant as to Club 2, Ward 10. He had been a manager of that box. Although the slight fact of not keeping the poll list was entirely due to the plot, and although Brown and Cole, the other Hyde manager, had acquiesced in its correction, when one of our watchers discovered it, and notwithstanding people kept on voting lawfully all day; that night Brown and Cole recalcitrantly refused to sign the returns.

"If the executive committee had met on that Friday, had counted the box from Ward 10, had adjusted the challenged votes honestly, but had point blank refused to grant me a recount, I would instantly have accepted the decree, although I should always have felt the injustice.

"Without a recount, and under proper adjustments I would have been beaten by three votes in the whole city. The Scharnoff and Bennett votes, which on a recount would have had to be thrown out, would have brought the net difference down to one vote. If upon a recount I had lost the election by that one vote, I would, of course, have acquiesced. But when, upon the committee's convenement on that fatal Friday, Brown and McDonald, bitter partisans and active participants in, and deeply personally interested in the affair of the Ward 10 box, began the meeting with bloodshed, I was shocked and grieved beyond expression, indeed outraged, and my feeling of sportsmanship to accept even so narrow a defeat, gave way to the utmost resentment and indignation. Since then, I have hardly cared to say anything at all on the whole bloody subject; feeling at times as if I would just let the matter go without another word, and then again feeling as if I should go into court; in fact, not knowing what to do or say.

"I have at no time, however, had any intention of bolting the primary. I do not mean that I would not be justified in doing so; for fraud vitiates everything that it touches, and I am convinced that from the beginning to the end of the campaign there was fraud on Mr. Hyde's side, without scruple. Moreover, force and duress vitiate everything. Not only did we have a fraudulent election, but we did not have a free election. Every influence and violence were brought to bear to prevent the people from expressing their true will at the polls. For a full year, or during Mr. Hyde's whole campaign, the real thieves were going around shouting 'Catch thief.' There never was a worse campaign or lying and back-biting. Nor has there ever been, anywhere, a meaner appeal to un-American bigotry. Even the characterless off-scourings of my own church were hired and inspired to 'bear testimony' to the 'designs' which I had on our government, and poor, pitiable, narrow-minded creatures were convinced by such methods that I was at the head of some conspiracy against our schools, our liberties, etc. The most vicious circulars were stuck under the doors of susceptible, but ignorant, people, and even some of the more intelligent were made to believe that I had taken a bloody oath to destroy

and subvert our government and as far as I was able turn it over to some foreign 'prince or potentate.' This whole question was one of such delicacy that if I had followed my own usual way and fought it out in the open, my perverse enemies would at once have shouted that I was bringing religion into politics. They who were fattening every wolf of bigotry upon it. Now that the campaign is over, may I not at least say that if it be possible that I had any such sinister intentions, was it not strange that I had done so much to improve our schools and play-grounds and other educational and charitable institutions? Why was it that I divided my patronage so carefully among all classes, sects and nationalities? That surely was a strange way to build up any one class or creed.

"All legal writers on election and all decided cases hold that one conducted under such circumstances is absolutely void. Mr. Hyde is no more entitled to the nomination than was Becker entitled to escape punishment for the crime which he instigated and of which he was the beneficiary and for which he was electrocuted only a little while ago. But I realize that any step taken by me at this time to embroil our community in further trouble and perhaps bloodshed, is more gravely to be considered than the gratification of winning an election. I thank my friends, of all sects and sorts and conditions, for what they have done for me. Their loyalty was of that immeasurable sort which carried them to the point of facing cruel and reckless murderers. They offered themselves to me on the altar of friendship. 'Greater love hath no man than this, than that he lay down his life for his friend.' There will be other days, perhaps, when I can repay them in some measure, and when we can retrieve our political fortunes. The night is dark, and I confess I can not see the dawn; but I will not add chaos to the gloom by indulging in wild and frenzied conduct. I could go into the courts and beyond doubt I could have Ward 10's box counted. This, as I have said, would, with the other corrections, bring the difference to three votes. Over these I have talked at length with a trusted friend, and we are agreed upon this conclusion; but the fact remains that there would still be that difference of three votes. I do not know of any way in which I can better show my respect for the great principle upon which our government is founded than by saying that, though the difference be but three, I do not intend to challenge the will of even such a slender alleged majority, but will accept and abide by the result, well and sincerely feeling in my heart of hearts that I have been robbed and cheated, and that the real will of the majority has been defeated. It might be that the courts, under the circumstances, would (as they should) order a recount, even though the difference be but three. I do not concede the election to Mr. Hyde. On the contrary, I will always feel, and so will my friends, that, like Tilden, I have been sacrificed, and perhaps, as in his case, for the good of South Carolina. Mr. Hyde will be looked upon as history looks upon Hayes. For four years Hayes, who 'defeat'd Tilden,' was regarded as a fraudulent president; but at the end of that time he never came back, and has hardly ever been heard of since.

"Let us then have peace. I know the people have short memories, and it has been said that republics are ungrateful. 'The evil that men do lives after them; the good is often interred with their bones.' So let it be with me. I am satisfied in my own conscience; and therefore it is supremely unimportant to me what shall be said of me. My friends, I trust, will always love me, as I them, and what matters it if my enemies will ever remain too narrow and bitter to see and know the truth? I am not vain enough to care much about the place that I will hold in our little local hall of fame. Indeed, I will only be too glad to share the fate of being remembered only for whatever evil I have done, if by the same token those who did infinitely grater evil to Charleston will be also remembered. I hope that our community may never forget the bringing, against the city government's protest, into our midst of deputies, who in reality had no authority, and who left behind them only a bloody trail; or the mockery of the militia, almost as if the town bordered on the brink of revolution and anarchy. Martin, Manning and Hyde were the trio with whose names must be forever linked this new outrage, only in keeping, however, with the record of Martin of long ago. For twenty years I have fought him for the evil that he has done. I have never been able to find any good in him, such as in charity I might be only too happy to inter with his bones. He has been all for self—noting for Charleston. As he grows old, he seems to grasp more energetically at every new chance to abuse our love of home rule, and thereby to prolong his political existence a little while. I believe,

though, he has done it for the last time. I will not resort to that which he would in my place resort to—the general election. For less cause he has done so in the past. But I will await calmly the day near at hand when the people, reacting against the methods whereby he has so often made Charleston suffer and which he has once more employed, will cast him from our midst. This is the consolation I gather from the otherwise inexplicable Hoyde 'victory.' Next year I believe it will be Martin's turn to go—at last."

JUDGE THOS. S. SEASE ILL; LEXINGTON COURT HALTED

Recess in Common Pleas Session Until November 22—Condition of Judge Sease.

News and Courier.
Lexington, Nov. 5.—Judge Thomas S. Sease of Spartanburg is confined to his room here at the Meetez hotel a very sick man, and as a result of his unexpected illness there will be no more common pleas court for Lexington until Monday, November 22, at which time, in the event that Judge Sease is not able to resume his duties on the bench a special judge, or one of the regular judges of the state, if one can be found at that time, will preside over the court. This was the decision reached by the members of the bar today, after it was learned that Judge Sease would not be able to continue the court, after a recess which was taken on Wednesday afternoon, by reason of the fact that a number of cases set for trial that day and for yesterday had been settled by agreement, and that the witnesses for the other cases on the roster were absent. The court adjourned until this morning. The case of Miller against the Parr Shoals Power company had been set for trial today and a number of witnesses, many of them from a distance, together with visiting attorneys interested in the case, were here. There was much disappointment by the announcement of the illness of Judge Sease. The Miller case against the Parr Shoals Power company is now set for trial at the top of the roster for Monday, November 22.

Judge Sease has not been well during the whole week, and on Monday he was suffering from a hoarseness for which he was unable to assign any cause. He has been feeling slightly worse each day, until last evening he took to his bed and a physician was summoned. He has some fever today and as he expresses it, his limbs pain him all over. He is also complaining of a severe headache. Last night he suffered a severe chill, and this, it is thought, brought on the fever. He attempted to dress at one time, by intending to go to his home in Spartanburg, but he found himself too weak to make the attempt.

Judge Sease is one of the most widely known and popular judges on the bench in this state. He is loved, honored and esteemed by every one at this bar. His manly courage and strong convictions have won for him a high place in the estimation of law-abiding citizens the state over, and the announcement of his illness has occasioned supreme regret and much sorrow among his friends here. It is hoped that he will soon be himself again. He is under the care of a physician and every attention possible is being rendered him.

Cyrus L. Shealy, clerk of court, is today sending out notices to all jurors who had been summoned by the sheriff to appear here on Monday, November 8, to report for duty on Monday, November 22, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. It is planned to have two more weeks of common pleas court this fall, the regular term having convened on Monday of this week, for a four week's session.

NOTICE

Of Special Meeting of the Shareholders of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad Company.

"To the Stockholders of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad Company:

Take notice that, in accordance with Section 11 of the By-laws of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad Company, and under the authority of Section 2383 of Volume 1 of the Code of South Carolina, 1912, a special meeting of the stockholders of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad Company has been called by the Board of Directors, and by a majority of the stockholders of the said company, at their regular annual meeting, to be held at the office of the company in the City of Columbia, South Carolina, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of November, 1915, at twelve o'clock, noon, for the purpose of taking action, with respect to having the charter of the company amended so as to extend its life in perpetuity and in such other respects as the stockholders may determine.

COLUMBIA, NEWBERRY AND LAURENS RAILROAD COMPANY,
By John F. Livingston, President."